

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

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USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USBERLIN

S E C R E T BONN 06293

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GW, CZ
SUBJECT: HUSAK VISIT - APRIL 10-13, 1978

REF: BONN 06244

1. DURING A TOUR D'HORIZON ON APRIL 6, I ASKED FOREIGN
OFFICE STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL ABOUT PREPARATIONS FOR
THE HUSAK VISIT. VAN WELL SAID THE CZECHS HAD WORKED
HARD IN RECENT WEEKS TO IMPROVE THEIR IMAGE HERE. THEY
HAD, FOR EXAMPLE, GRANTED VISAS TO GERMAN JOURNALISTS
PREVIOUSLY BARRED FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HAD RELEASED
A NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. HUSAK AND OTHER
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LEADING CZECH OFFICIALS HAD ALSO GIVEN A SERIES OF
INTERVIEWS TO GERMAN PUBLICATIONS STRESSING THEIR DESIRE
TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. CZECH MEDIA COMMENTARY ON THE FRG
HAD ALSO TAKEN ON A MORE POSITIVE TONE. (COMMENT: THE
SPD HAS ALSO DONE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK
TO PAVE THE WAY FOR HUSAK. END COMMENT.) AS A RESULT,
THE CZECHS HAD ACHIEVED SOME SUCCESS IN CREATING A

FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR THE VISIT. NONETHELESS, HUSAK COULD STILL EXPECT TO ENCOUNTER CONSIDERABLE PRESS CRITICISM FOR HIS HANDLING OF CZECH DISSIDENTS.

2. THE CZECHS WERE ALSO TRYING HARD TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES PRIOR TO HUSAK'S ARRIVAL. AT THE MOMENT, WORK WAS PROCEEDING ON A DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT WHICH MIGHT BE READY FOR INITIALING DURING THE VISIT. A CULTURAL AGREEMENT AND A POLITICAL DECLARATION, WHICH VAN WELL TERMED A "GOOD" PAPER, WOULD BE SIGNED BY SCHMIDT AND HUSAK.

3. THE FRG WAS ALSO ANXIOUS TO FIND SOME MEANS TO HANDLE FUTURE BORDER INCIDENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE FRG HAD SUGGESTED THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OR A COMMISSIONER BY EACH SIDE TO DEAL WITH SUCH INCIDENTS. THE CZECHS HAD ORIGINALLY WANTED TO ESTABLISH A BORDER COMMISSION ON THE BASIS OF A STATE TREATY. THEY DROPPED THE IDEA, HOWEVER, WHEN THE GERMANS POINTED OUT THAT SUCH A TREATY WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE A BERLIN CLAUSE. DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING ON THE GERMAN PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. STOESEL

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